

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
25 August 2005 (25.08.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/077818 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C01B 3/32**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/003792

(22) International Filing Date: 4 February 2005 (04.02.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/542,569 6 February 2004 (06.02.2004) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,

CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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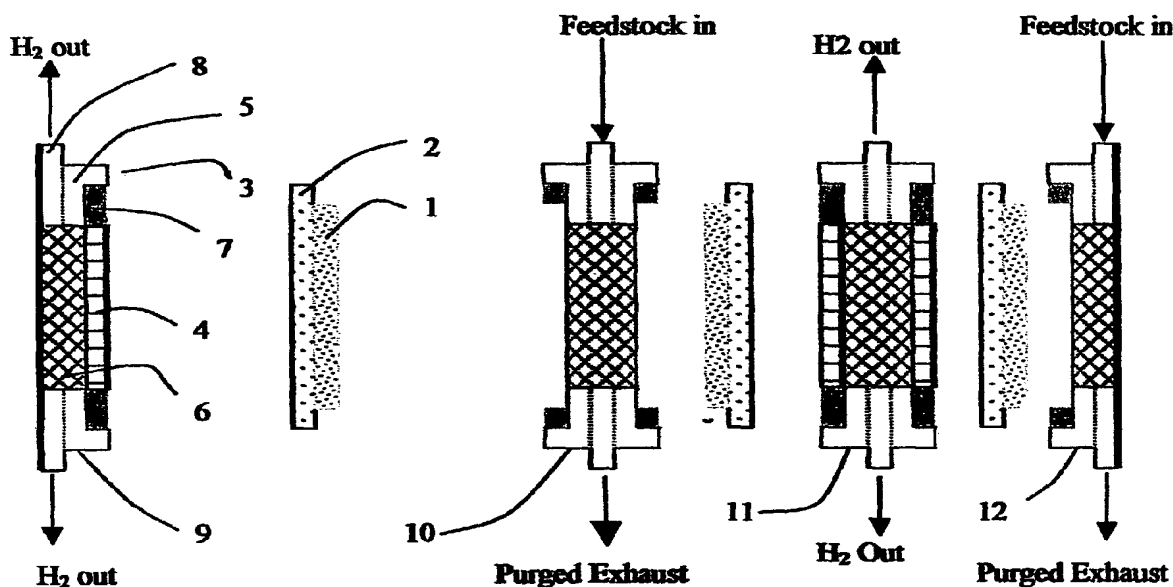
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

Published:

— with international search report
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SINGLE STAGE MEMBRANE REACTOR FOR HIGH PURITY HYDROGEN PRODUCTION



(57) Abstract: Hydrogen generating method and apparatus. The apparatus comprises a mixed phase protonic-electron conducting cermet membrane (2), wherein said membrane is coated with porous metal or composite catalyst (1) effective to decompose hydrocarbon and water reactants into a hydrogen-rich syngas at elevated temperature and pressure. The hydrogen ions are continuously withdrawn in situ by diffusing them through the mixed phase conducting cermet membrane (2) to the second membrane side where the hydrogen ions can be reconstituted into molecular hydrogen with a supply of electrons. The method favorably shifts the equilibrium of steam reforming and water gas shift reaction by use a single stage, high efficiency and high purity membrane reactor.

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